

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01159 281537Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07

/082 W

-----290333Z 030109 /70

R 281400Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5536

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1159

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MORG ZA

SUBJECT: CHANGES IN ZAMBIA NATIONAL DEFENSE FORCE

REF: LUSAKA 1118

SUMMARY: THE GOVERNMENTAL REORGANIZATION ANNOUNCED BY PRESID-
ENT KAUNDA ON APRIL 24 CONTAINED SOME IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR
THE ZAMBIA NATIONAL DEFENSE FORCE (ZNDF). ITS COMMANDER WAS
MOVED TO A MINISTERIAL POSITION AND A NEW ONE APPOINTED;
NEW APPOINTMENTS WERE MADE RETURNING SOMEWHAT GREATER AUTONOMY
TO THE INDIVIDUAL SERVICES; AND ARMY ELEMENTS WERE CRITICIZED
FOR INCOMPETENCE, ARROGANCE AND CORRUPTION. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ADDITION TO THE GRZ CABINET AND MINISTERIAL CHANGES

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 01159 281537Z

REPORTED REFTEL, PRES KAUNDA HAS ANNOUNCED MAJOR CHANGES IN
THE ZAMBIA NATIONAL DEFENSE FORCE (ZNDF).

2. FORMER COMMANDER OF ZNDF, GENERAL CHINKULI, HAS BECOME
MINISTER OF MINES. HE IS REPLACED BY LT. GEN. PETER ZUZE
WHO FORMERLY HEADED THE ZAMBIAN AIR FORCE. ZUZE'S SECOND IN
COMMAND WILL BE BRIG. GEN. BENJAMIN MIBENGE WHO HAD BEEN

GENERAL MANAGER OF TAZARA. AS REPORTED REFTEL, BRIG. GEN. ENOS HAIMBE HAS BEEN DETACHED FROM THE ZNDF TO CONCENTRATE ON HIS DUTIES AS MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ZAMBIA AIRWAYS.

3. MAJ. GEN. CHARLES NYIRENDA, FORMER COMMANDER OF ZAMBIA NATIONAL SERVICE, HAS ASSUMED FULL CONTROL OF THE ARMY WHILE FORMER DEPTY COMMANDER MULENGA TAKES OVER THE NATIONAL SERVICE. A ZAMBIA AIR FORCE PILOT, SIMBULE, BECOMES "CHIEF OF AIR STAFF".

4. IN ADDITION TO THE CHANGES ABOVE, BRIG. GEN. MIYANDA, FORMER HEAD OF THE MECHANICAL SERVICES BRANCH (MSG) HAS HAD HIS COMMISSION WITHDRAWN FOR "ALLOWING THE DISCIPLINE TO DEGENERATE AMONG SOLDIERS AT MSB." ALSO DISMISSED WAS A COL. CHOLA NSEMIW FOR AWARDED A CONTRACT TO A RELATIVE WHICH RESULTED IN A \$310,000 OVERCHARGE TO THE GOVERNMENT.

5. IN ANNOUNCING THE CHANGES, KAUNDA CALLED CHINKULI "DYNAMIC" AND GAVE HIGH PRAISE TO HAIMBE FOR THE "MARVELOUS JOB IN THE SHORT SPACE OF TIME HE HAS BEEN WITH ZAMBIA AIRWAYS". THE ARMY IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, RECEIVED A FAIR SHARE OF CRITICISM. KAUNDA SAID HE WANTED TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE "ARMY IS A SERVANT OF THE PEOPLE, NOT THEIR MASTER" AND THAT "YOU CANNOT LET A COUNTRY DEGENERATE TO THE POINT WHERE LEADERS START PRAYING FOR SOLDIERS IN THE BARRACKS."

6. COMMENT: MOVES ARE THE FIRST SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN ZNDF SINCE CHINKULI, ITS FIRST AFRICAN COMMANDER WAS APPOINTED SIX YEARS AGO. THEY APPEAR TO SERVE A NUMBER OF FUNCTIONS AND
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 LUSAKA 01159 281537Z

HAVE BEEN GENERALLY APPLAUDED. CHINKULI HAS SERVED LONGER THAN IS USUAL OR RECOMMENDED FOR A ZNDF COMMANDER AND WAS UNDER CRITICISM FOR FAVORITISM AND RUMORED CORRUPTION. IT WAS WIDELY CONSIDERED, HOWEVER, THAT BECAUSE OF CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRESIDENT AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIP WITH MRS. KAUNDA, HE WOULD NOT BE MOVED. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN CRITICISM WITHIN THE SERVICES OF CHINKULI'S OVER-ZEALOUSNESS IN INTEGRATING THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE INTO THE ZNDF. REMOVAL OF CHINKULI, THEREFORE, SHOULD RESPOND TO DISSATISFACTION WITHIN THE ZNDF. WHILE SERVICE COMMANDERS IN FACT EXISTED, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SINCE FORMATION OF THE ZNDF THAT THEY HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY NAMED GIVING THE SERVICES SOMEWHAT MORE AUTONOMY. IN THE PROCESS, ZUZE'S POSITION LOSES SOME OF ITS AUTHORITY. HIS NEW DEPUTY IS A CLASSMATE OF CHINKULI'S AND CONSIDERED SOMEWHAT MORE ABLE. NYIRENDA IS ALSO BRITISH TRAINED AND CONSIDERED ABLE. CHINKULI IS WITHOUT EXPERIENCE FOR THE POSITION OF MINES MINISTER AND WHILE INTELLIGENT AND FRIENDLY IS NOT WITHOUT HIS SHORTCOMINGS. IT WOULD APPEAR, THEREFORE, THAT THE DEFENSE FORCES MAY HAVE FARED BETTER THAN THE MINES

MINISTRY AND THAT THE MOVE WAS FAR FROM A PROMOTION OF
CHINKULI.
LOW

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Message Attributes

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